

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY DMA:PSCHWIMMER;PM/ISO:MPASZTALANIE

APPROVED BY PM/ISO:GCHURCHILL

EA/ANP:MR. MICHAUD

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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DMA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652 : N/A

TAGS: MARR, TSPA, AS

SUBJECT: GEOS-C SATELLITE OBSERVATION PROGRAM

1. DOD PROPOSES TO INITIATE A JOINT U.S./AUSTRALIA THREE MONTH SATELLITE OBSERVATION PROGRAM UTILIZING A PORTABLE TELEMETRY STATION SITUATED IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA. THE PROGRAM WOULD SUPPORT THE NASA GEOS-C SATELLITE LAUNCHED 9 APRIL 1975, AND WOULD BE CONDUCTED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE U.S./AUSTRALIA MAPPING AGREEMENT AND SUBSEQUENT ARRANGEMENTS. THE GEOS-C PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO DEMONSTRATE THE UTILITY OF A SPACE BORNE RADAR ALTIMETER FOR MEASURING THE GEOMETRY OF THE OCEAN SURFACE, AND MAKING MEAN SEA LEVEL DETERMINATIONS. PROJECT REQUIREMENTS ARE OUTLINED BELOW.

2. THE PROPOSED JOINT TELEMETRY STATION WOULD BE LOCATED
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ON THE WEST COAST OF AUSTRALIA FOR A PERIOD OF THREE MONTHS BEGINNING 1 JULY 1975. DMA PROPOSES TO PROVIDE EQUIPMENT AND ONE TECHNICIAN, WHILE TWO ADDITIONAL AUSTRALIAN PERSONNEL WILL BE REQUIRED TO OPERATE AND

MAN THE STATION. DMA WOULD SHIP THE REQUIRED TELEMETRY RECEIVING EQUIPMENT (APPROXIMATELY 1,700 POUNDS) AND ACCOMPANYING SUPPORT EQUIPMENT (APPROXIMATELY 750 POUNDS). TELEMETRY EQUIPMENT SITING REQUIREMENTS ARE: (A) THE

OPTICAL HORIZON MUST BE CLEAR ABOVE FIVE DEGREES ELEVATION IN ALL DIRECTIONS; (B) THE AREA MUST BE FREE OF RADIO TRANSMISSION ON RECEIVING FREQUENCY 136.320 MHZ OR SUBHARMONICS THEREOF, AS WELL AS RADIO INTERFERENCE AND BACKGROUND NOISE SOURCES SUCH AS AUTOMOBILE IGNITION, HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINES, HIGH POWER TRANSMISSION LINES OR TRANSMITTING EQUIPMENT; (C) AVAILABILITY OF ELECTRICAL POWER, 500 WATTS, 50 OR 60 CYCLES, SINGLE PHASE 115 OR 220 (WITHIN TEN PERCENT). ADDITIONALLY, A PERMANENT GROUND LEVEL CONCRETE ANTENNA SUPPORT BASE (4-5 FEET IN DIAMETER) MUST BE ESTABLISHED, AND ACCESS IS NEEDED TO AN ESTABLISHED, RELIABLE, TELETYPE CIRCUIT ON A PART-TIME BASIS TO PROVIDE LOGISTIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE DEFENSE MAPPING AGENCY.

3. ALTIMETRY DATA RECEIVED BY THE TELEMETRY STATION WILL BE AVAILABLE TO AUSTRALIA WITH A NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION CAVEAT.

4. ACTION REQUESTED. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO SEEK APPROVAL FOR THE PROPOSED JOINT U.S./AUSTRALIA SATELLITE OBSERVATION PROGRAM. GOOD OFFICES OF COL JOHN K. NOLAN, DIRECTOR, MILITARY SURVEY, CANBERRA (TEL. 663351) SHOULD BE UTILIZED IN ARRANGING THE APPROPRIATE CLEARANCE. COL. NOLAN IS AWARE OF THE DETAILS OF THIS PROPOSAL, AND HAS BEEN HELPFUL IN ARRANGING SIMILAR CLEARANCES IN THE PAST. INGERSOLL

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